

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 987

By Montgomery

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Anna Bell Thomas Houser.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those sterling individuals who, through their hard work, expertise, and dedication, have pieced together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Anna Bell Thomas Houser is one such noteworthy person who is most assuredly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Anna Bell Thomas was born in Sevier County on October 24, 1908, as one of five children to parents, Henry Harrison Thomas and Ida Bell Hodges Thomas; and

WHEREAS, she was joined in holy matrimony to Bruce Mark Houser in 1933, and their blessed union produced a beloved daughter, JoElla Houser; and

WHEREAS, Anna Bell Houser worked diligently for many years at Davis Manufacturing Company in Knoxville, Tennessee and at the Palm Beach Company, making and inspecting men's clothing and earning the respect of her peers and superiors alike for her exemplary work ethic and attention to detail; she fondly recalls working on a special order for Dave Garroway, who was the founding host of NBC's *The Today Show*; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Houser evinces her deep, Christian beliefs at the Valley Grove Baptist Church, where, at ninety-nine-years-old, she has the distinction of being the oldest living member; she worked assiduously at Valley Grove for many years in the youth department and the church library and attended the senior adult meetings and traveled with the seniors to various destinations in the United States, Canada, and the Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, Anna Bell Houser is deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her husband and daughter, Ms. Houser has been blessed with the love and support she receives from her son-in-law, William F. Karnes; her granddaughters, Pamela Sue Karnes Keck and her husband, Carly, and Tracy Joanne Karnes; her great-granddaughter, Melissa Joanne Keck; and her siblings, Floyd Lee Thomas; Stella Beatrice Thomas Garner; Sara Jane Thomas Samuels Howard; and Ola Marie Thomas Clark; and

WHEREAS, she has always been a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and a friend to everyone she knows and who knows her; and

WHEREAS, Anna Bell Houser currently resides at Fort Sanders Sevier Nursing Home in Sevierville, Tennessee, where she is loved by the staff and other residents; she fills her days with bustling activity, such as receiving visits from her many friends and relatives and watching televised church services, and thanks the Lord for her long and blessed life; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize the bountiful life of this exceptional Christian servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the impeccable character and bountiful life of Ms. Anna Bell Thomas Houser and commend her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.